



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/725,054	12/02/2003	Hiroshi Igarashi	Q78579	2948
23373	7590	10/15/2004	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			PERKEY, WILLIAM B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2851	

DATE MAILED: 10/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/725,054

Applicant(s)

IGARASHI

Examiner

William B. Perkey

Art Unit

2851

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/10/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,103,254).

This rejection relies on the embodiment disclosed in column 8 lines 4-22 that teaches a gray scale image is shown on the display device 62 as well as the outline of the in-focus image as determined by the in-focus determination device 70. This embodiment inherently requires a signal processing device in order to effect the disclosed display of the gray scale image and a display control device in order to generate the display of the outline.

3. Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Baron (US 2003/0002870 A1).

Baron discloses a signal processing device 301 in Fig. 3; an image display device 306; an in-focus location determination device shown as the flow diagram in Fig. 1 or Fig. 2; and a display control device as the processor 301.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baron (US 2003/0002870 A1) in view of Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 5,847,836) and optionally further in view of Terane et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,734,909 B1).

Baron shows the claimed invention, as explained above, except for a selection device to select an image for printing and a print device which prints the selected image. Suzuki shows a digital camera with a built-in printer that may selectively produce a print of the image. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants invention to provide the camera of Baron with a built-in printer and a print button in order to obtain the desirable feature of selectively printing the captured image in the Baron camera. The examiner believes the limitations of claim 5 to be fully met by Baron in view of Suzuki. However, in the event that one may consider otherwise, reliance is optionally made in addition to Terane et al. disclosing a digital camera that teaches reproducing any one or all of the captured images. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to reproduce any of the stored pictures in the Baron camera on a display, with or without its in-focus area indication, and to select any one of the stored images for printing by the built-in printer in order to obtain the desirable feature of obtaining a print of any stored image at any given time.

Art Unit: 2851

Claim Objections

6. Claims 5-8 are objected to because of the following informalities: In the next to the last line of independent claim 5, it appears the word "image" should be in the plural form, instead of the singular. Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Reasons for Allowance

8. The primary reason for indication of patentability of dependent claims 2, 6 and 10 is the claim limitation that the frequency spectrum is compared to the calculated threshold amount and the area with the most frequency components with levels higher than the threshold, is the in-focus location. The primary reason for indication of patentability of claims 3, 7 and 11 is the claim limitation for a warning signal when there is no in-focus location. The primary reason for indication of patentability of claims 4, 8 and 12 is the claim limitation for displaying an enlarged image of the in-focus location.

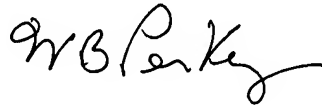
Telephone Numbers

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William B. Perkey whose telephone number is (571) 272-2126. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2851

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



William B. Perkey
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2851

WBP:wbp